

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 are amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 11-14, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0153942; rejects claims 4, 5, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wang in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0038103 to Estrada et al; and rejects claims 6-8 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,447,501 to Solar et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended applicants' representative during the November 16, 2007 telephone discussion. The substance of the discussions held is incorporated into the amendments and remarks herein and constitute applicants' record of the interview.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 recite, in combination with other claimed features, a tubular body positioned on a distal end side of a linear wire. The tubular body possesses a hollow portion. A distal end portion of the linear wire longitudinally overlaps a proximal end portion of the hollow portion of the tubular body. The distal end portion of the linear wire is fixed to a proximal end portion of the tubular body exteriorly of the tubular body by a reinforcing tube which surrounds the tubular body and the linear wire. The linear wire and the tubular body are positioned so that a longitudinal axis of the linear wire does not intersect the hollow portion of the tubular body.

Wang discloses a lock wire 22 fixed to an inner shaft 12 of tubular member 26 via outer sheath 14. Wang does not disclose the distal end portion of the linear wire fixed to a proximal end portion of the tubular body exteriorly of the tubular body by a reinforcing tube which surrounds the tubular body and the linear wire, the linear wire and the tubular body being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of the linear wire does not intersect the hollow portion of the tubular body, as in applicants' amended independent claims 1 and 11.

Neither Estrada nor Solar overcomes these deficiencies of Wang. For example, in Fig. 2, Solar discloses advancement member 5 attached to tubular tracking member 18. The advancement member appears to be directly attached to the exterior of the tubular tracking member 18.

The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims and for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

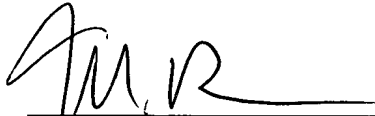
Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that the telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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